Crop loss in Karnataka by hailstorm

3339. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crops worth crores of rupees were lost owing to hailstorm during January-February, 2002, in Karnataka and seven districts suffering heavily;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government for additional assistance under Natural Calamity Relief Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount, if any, released for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka informed that the hailstorm affected 7 districts, causing damage to cropped area in about 0.32 lakh ha., with an estimated loss of Rs. 27.50 crore. The entire Central share of Rs. 58.72 crore under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 was released to the State for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including hailstorm. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State recently for assessment of the situation. The question of assistance from the National Fund is under process.

Pay anomalies in ICAR

3340. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of scientists in ICAR are made to suffer due to large-scale fixation-releated anomalies in the pay of seniors *vis-a-vis* jouniors, resulting in a sense of frustration amongst the senior scientists;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to rectify anomalies in pay-scales of seniors *vs.* juniors in ICAR; and

(c) what decision Government have taken, so far, in implementing pay-scales under UGC package plan, which are acceptable to the ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The ICAR has adopted

MHRD/UGC pay-scales applicable to the teachers of universities and colleges for the scientists of ICAR/teachers of State Agricultural Universities with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance/Department of Personnel & Training. After revision of pay-scales, some representations have been received from the scientists relating to pay anomalies. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance, who have advised to consult Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) The pay-scales of the scientists of ICAR have already been revised and implemented on the lines of Ministry of Human Resource Development notification for revision of pay-scales of teachers of universities and colleges under UGC.

Cotton yield

3341. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or being taken by Government to increase cotton yield per hectare; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of India has launched Technology Mission on Cotton in February, 2000 to increase the production and yeild of cotton. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is evolving production technologies, while, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is involved in the transfer of technology and developmental activities through the implementation of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini Mission-II of the Technology Mission on Cotton. Under this programme, assistance is given to the States for the transfer of technologies through demonstration and training as well as supply of critical inputs like supply of seeds, sprayers, sprinklers, drip irrigation system, pheromone traps and bio-agents.

(b) The implementation of various activities of the programme helped in increasing the production and yield of cotton in the country which is evident from the following data:—